

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

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GENEVA FOR VANCE AND DUPONT; S/NM FOR ERNST; DEA FOR EOI -
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SUBJECT: PRESS ACCOUNTS OF REMARKS AT CND SESSION BY MEXICAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND CEMEF DIRECTOR

1. SUMMARY: MEXICAN PRESS FEB. 24 CARRIED ACCOUNTS OF STATE-
MENTS MADE DAY BEFORE BY MEXICAN AG AT GENEVA MEETING OF U.N.
COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS. DAILY EXCELSIOR ALSO CARRIED
REMARKS BY DIRECTOR OF MEXICAN CENTER FOR DRUG DEPENDENCY
RESEARCH (CEMEF). SIGNIFICANT POINTS OF BOTH GIVEN BELOW.
END SUMMARY.

2. SEVERAL MEXICAN DAILIES CARRIED ACCOUNTS OF MEXICAN AG
OJEDA PAULLADA'S REMARKS BEFORE FEB. 23 MORNING SESSION
OF CND. AS USUAL, EXCELSIOR (IN STORY BY THEIR CORRESPONDENT
ARNULFO UZETA) HAD MOST COMPLETE VERSION. IN IT, OJEDA (WHO
HAS JUST BEEN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CND) REPORTEDLY MADE
INTER ALIA THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

.. MEXICO WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN GROWING OPIUM OR MARIJUANA
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IF IT DID NOT SHARE 3,000 KILOMETERS BORDER WITH WORLD'S

LARGEST CONSUMER MARKET FOR NARCOTICS. THE PROXIMITY OF THE U.S. HAS ENABLED INTERNATIONAL BANDS OF TRAFFICKERS TO OPERATE IN MEXICO. HOWEVER, HE SAID, "WE ARE NOT DISPOSED TO PERMIT MEXICANS TO PARTICIPATE, EITHER AS VICTIMS OR AS AUTHORS, IN A TRAFFIC WHICH CONSTITUTES A CRIME AGAINST ALL HUMANITY."

B. THE INCIDENCE OF DRUG ADDICTION IN MEXICO IS RELATIVELY LOW, AND SUCH A COSTLY AND EXTENSIVE (ANTI-DRUG) CAMPAIGN WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY IF THE MAIN CONSUMING COUNTRIES DID MORE TO CONTROL DEMAND WITHIN THEIR OWN BORDERS.

C. THERE ARE FEW INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS REQUIRING THE CLOSE AND EFFECTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN COUNTRIES CALLED FOR BY THE ANTI-DRUG BATTLE.

D. THE CND TRADITIONALLY HAS PLACED GREATEST EMPHASIS ON REDUCING THE PRODUCTION AND TRAFFIC OF NARCOTICS. NOW A FORMAL AGREEMENT IS NEEDED TO PLACE MORE IMPORTANCE ON CONTROLLING CONSUMPTION.

3. ALSO QUOTED WAS CEMEF DIRECTOR, DR. GUIDO BELSASSO, WHO APPARENTLY MADE SOME STATEMENTS TO THE EXCELSIOR CORRESPONDENT. HE REPORTEDLY ECHOED OJEDA'S REMARKS ABOUT THE CND EMPHASIS ON CONTROL OF NARCOTICS PRODUCTION AND TRAFFIC, AND SAID THE CND HITHER-TO HAS HAD INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION ON THE CONSUMPTION SIDE. HE STATED THAT MEXICO HAS SUGGESTED THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP, A SECRETARIAT BASED IN CANADA, WITH 15 WORLD EXPERTS TO SYNTHETIZE THE INFORMATION, MAKE IT COMPREHENSIBLE AND ADAPT IT TO THE NEEDS OF RESEARCH AND GENERAL UNDERSTANDING (OF THE PROBLEM).

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